

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below. The status of the claims after amendment will be as follows.

Claims 1 - 10 (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) A heater for blowing hot air in a reflow furnace comprising a box-shaped body having a first end and a second end, a suction chamber disposed inside the body and two discharge chambers disposed inside the body on opposite sides of the suction chamber, an inlet at the first end of the body communicating with the suction chamber and two outlets at the first end of the body each communicating with one of the discharge chambers, a total area of the outlets being larger than an area of the inlet, ~~an electric heater disposed inside the body, two partitions which divide an interior of the body into a suction chamber and discharge chambers disposed on opposite sides of the suction chamber and each separating the suction chamber from one of the discharge chambers and sloping towards each other so that the flow area of the suction chamber decreases towards the inlet, the partitions sloping towards each other at an upper end of the suction chamber to reduce a width of the suction chamber, each partition having an opening which connects the suction chamber with one of the discharge chambers openings which each connect the suction chamber with one of the discharge chambers, and a blower installed in the body a lower portion of~~

~~the suction chamber, an upper end of each discharge chamber~~
~~having a perforated plate having discharge holes formed therein,~~
and an electric heater disposed in the body downstream of the
suction inlet, each discharge chamber having a perforated plate
having discharge holes formed therein provided at the first end
of the body.

12. (previously presented) A heater as claimed in claim 11 including a separate perforated plate for each discharge chamber.

13. (previously presented) A heater as claimed in claim 12 wherein each perforated plate is coated with a black ceramic.

Claims 14 - 15 (cancelled).

16. (currently amended) A heater as claimed in claim ~~15~~ 11 including a plate which extends between the partitions between the blower and the electric heater and has an inlet for the blower formed therein.

17. (currently amended) A heater as claimed in claim ~~15~~ 11 wherein the ~~sloping of the~~ partitions slope towards each other so as to increase a flow area of each discharge chamber towards the first end of the body.

18. (currently amended) A heater as claimed in claim ~~15~~ 11 wherein each partition includes a portion extending parallel to

the other partition and a portion sloping towards the other partition.

19. (new) A heater as claimed in claim 11 wherein the suction chamber is prismatic.

20. (new) A heater as claimed in claim 11 wherein the suction chamber has its smallest flow area at the inlet.

21. (new) A heater as claimed in claim 11 wherein the electric heater is disposed in the body on a flow path between the inlet and the blower.

22. (new) A heater as claimed in 11 wherein the blower and the electric heater are disposed between the partitions.

23. (new) A heater as claimed in claim 11 wherein the inlet separates the two discharge chambers from each other at the first end of the body.